

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, MAY 2, 1978:
HIGHLIGHTS

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 8670; (B) BRUSSELS 8618; (C) BRUSSELS
8617; (D) BRUSSELS 8615; (E) BRUSSELS 8609; (F) BRUSSELS
8616; (G) BRUSSELS 8646; (H) COPENHAGEN 2334; (I) 76 ECA-
552

1. SUMMARY: THE CENTERPIECE OF DISCUSSION DURING THE
MAY 2 EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL WAS A GERMAN STATEMENT
ON PROTECTIONISM AND INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURAL POLICY (REPORT-
ED REF A). REFS B THROUGH G REPORT ON COUNCIL DISCUSSION
OF FOOTWEAR IMPORTS, COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT, STEEL SECTOR
PROBLEMS, THE MTN, EC/AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS, AND THE FRG/
SOVIET COOPERATION AGREEMENT. SEPTTEL REPORTS ON
SIGNATURE OF THE PROTOCOLS TO THE EC/CYPRUS ASSOCIATION
AGREEMENT. OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE MINISTERS ARE
HIGHLIGHTED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

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2. PREPARATIONS FOR BREMEN EUROPEAN COUNCIL:
THE COUNCIL TOOK NOTE OF A DANISH PRESIDENCY PROGRESS
REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR DISCUSSION OF A COMMON EC
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRATEGY BY THE JULY 6-7 EUROPEAN
COUNCIL IN BREMEN. IN THIS CONTEXT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS
REVIEWED THE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY THE VARIOUS

SPECIALIZED EC COUNCILS.

3. MARINE POLLUTION:

EC COMMISSIONER BURKE BRIEFED THE COUNCIL ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR PRACTICAL MEASURES TO ACHIEVE THE MARINE POLLUTION OBJECTIVES SET BY THE APRIL 7-8 COPENHAGEN EUROPEAN COUNCIL (REF H). BURKE EMPHASIZED THAT THE COMMISSION'S OBJECTIVE IS NOT TO DUPLICATE OR SUPPLANT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERWAY BUT TO OUTLINE EXTRA CONTRIBUTIONS THE COMMUNITY MIGHT MAKE, WHICH INCLUDE:

--CREATION OF A COMPUTERIZED TECHNICAL SUPPORT SYSTEM TO ENABLE RAPID MOBILIZATION OF ACTION TO COUNTER ACCIDENTAL OIL POLLUTION;

--LAUNCHING OF A RESEARCH PROGRAM AIMED AT REFINING TECHNIQUES FOR COPING WITH MARINE POLLUTION;

--ESTABLISHMENT OF A FLEET OF SPECIALIZED ANTI-POLLUTION SHIPS;

--EXAMINATION OF A POSSIBLE EC INITIATIVE ON OPTIMUM USE OF TUGBOATS;

--STUDY OF COMPENSATION SYSTEMS FOR VICTIMS OF SPILLAGES;
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--THE NEED FOR COUNCIL DECISIONS AUTHORIZING CONCLUSION OF THE COOPERATION PROTOCOL OF THE BARCELONA CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AGAINST POLLUTION AND OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS TO PERMIT EC ACCESSION TO THE BONN AGREEMENT ON NORTH SEA HYDROCARBON POLLUTION;

--POSSIBLE MEMBER STATE MEASURES ON CREW STANDARDS, SAFETY STANDARDS, AND OPERATIONAL FACTORS, AND THE NEED FOR MEMBER STATE RATIFICATION OF IMCO AND ILO AGREEMENTS LAYING DOWN MINIMUM STANDARDS IN THOSE SECTORS; AND

--THE NEED FOR MEMBER STATES TO ACT TOGETHER IN IMCO ON NAVIGATION RULES, TRAFFIC CORRIDORS, AND CREW QUALIFICATIONS.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS TOOK NO ACTION ON THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS, WHICH WILL NOW BE DISCUSSED BY THE MAY 30 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL AND THE JUNE 12 TRANSPORT COUNCIL, BEFORE COMING BACK TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON JUNE 27.

5. HARMONIZATION OF COMPANY LAW:

THE COUNCIL BRIEFLY DISCUSSED, BUT TOOK NO ACTION ON THE
PROPOSED 4TH DIRECTIVE ON HARMONIZATION OF COMPANY LAW
CONCERNING PRESENTATION OF BALANCE SHEET ACCOUNTS (REF I).
THE FILE WAS RETURNED TO COREPER. HINTON

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